

Amendments to the Claims

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listing of claims in the application.

Listing of the Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A press pad comprising a fabric that includes at least one of a warp and a weft having a pattern of alternating types of thread, the pattern repeating itself in the fabric,

wherein the pattern of alternating types of threads includes at least two types of thread of different elasticities transverse to the thread axis, each type of thread comprising a sheath made of an elastomeric material and a core with a higher tensile strength than the sheath,

wherein a diameter of the sheath of the first type of thread is generally equal to a diameter of the sheath of the second type of thread such that a diameter of one of the two types of thread is generally equal to a diameter of the other of the types of thread.

2. (Previously Presented) The press pad according to claim 1, characterized in that the at least two types of thread have polymer material at least on their lateral surfaces.

3. Cancelled.

4. (Previously Presented) The press pad according to claim 1, characterized in that the at least two types of thread each are bunched or stranded from fibers.

5. Cancelled.

6. (Previously Presented) The press pad according to claim 1, characterized in that the core is essentially made of metal.

7. (Previously Presented) The press pad according to Claim 1, characterized in that the core is essentially made of polyamide.

8. (Previously Presented) The press pad according to Claim 1, characterized in that the core is essentially bunched or stranded from fibers.

9-10. Cancelled.

11. (Currently Amended) A press pad comprising:

at least one of a warp and a weft including a pattern of alternating types of threads having differing elasticities transverse to a thread axis, each type of thread including a core and a polymer material at least on its lateral surface; and

the weft interwoven with the warp, wherein the pattern of alternating types of threads repeats itself,

wherein a diameter of the sheath of the first type of thread is generally equal to a diameter of the sheath of the second type of thread.

12. (Previously Presented) The press pad according to claim 11, wherein at least one weft thread has a sheath made of a polymer material and a core having higher tensile strength than this sheath.

13. (Previously Presented) The press pad according to claim 12, wherein the core is essentially made of metal.

14. (Previously Presented) The press pad according to claim 12, wherein the core is essentially made of polyamide.

15. (Previously Presented) The press pad according to claim 12, wherein the warp has a core that is essentially bunched or stranded from fibers.

16. (Previously Presented) The press pad according to claim 12, characterized in that at least one type of thread is bunched or stranded from fibers.

17. (Previously Presented) The press pad according to claim 12, characterized in that at least one type of thread of the warp includes a sheath made of a polymer material and a core having higher tensile strength than this sheath.

18. (Currently Amended) A press pad with improved pressure compression having:
a warp; and
weft in communication with the warp,
wherein at least one of the warp and the weft includes an alternating pattern of at least two types of threads of differing elasticities in the transverse to the thread axis, each type of thread having at 1) a sheath that is an elastomer and has a high temperature stability above 200 degrees Celsius, and 2) a core, wherein the core has a higher tensile strength than the sheath, and
wherein a diameter of the ~~sheath of the~~ first type of thread is generally equal to a diameter of the ~~sheath of the~~ second type of thread.

19. (Previously Presented) The press pad according to claim 18, wherein at least one core is essentially made of polyamide.

20. (Previously Presented) The press pad according to claim 18, wherein at least one core is essentially bunched or stranded from fibers.

21. (New) The press pad of claim 1 wherein the diameters of the two types of thread are generally equal for generating a padding effect and a generally homogenous pressure distribution over an area of the press pad.

22. (New) The press pad of claim 21 incorporated into a pressing machine constructed to apply a coating of a wear resistant melamine resin overlay to a material and wherein the press pad is constructed to prevent graying of the wear resistant melamine resin.

23. (New) The press pad of claim 11 wherein the diameter of the first type of thread is generally equal to a diameter of the second type of thread for preventing graying of a wear resistant melamine resin overlay applied to a material processed proximate the press pad and generally equalizing different pressures across an area of the material.

24. (New) The press pad of claim 18 wherein the diameter of the first type of thread are generally equal to the diameter of the second type of thread for:

(a) generating a padding effect and a generally homogenous pressure distribution over an area of the press pad; and

(b) preventing graying of a wear resistant melamine resin overlay applied to a material processed proximate the press pad and uniformly distributing the homogenous pressure distribution across an area of the wear resistant melamine.